

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

an originating mobile switching center that handles one or more calls;

5 wherein a serving mobile switching center for a communication device on a call of the one or more calls passes control of the call to the originating mobile switching center;

wherein the originating mobile switching center triggers the call to a service node, wherein the service node sends an initial trigger response to the originating mobile switching center that instructs the originating mobile switching center to redirect the call, wherein the
10 initial trigger response arms one or more triggers that support one or more services for the communication device;

wherein the one or more triggers comprise one or more of one or more switch based triggers and one or more subscriber based triggers exclusive of Calling_Routing_Addresss_Available, OAnswer, and ODisconnect triggers;

15 wherein upon receipt of the initial trigger response, the originating mobile switching center encounters one or more of the one or more triggers and triggers the call to one or more other service nodes.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the serving mobile switching center does not support the one or more triggers and the originating mobile switching center supports the
20 one or more triggers.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the communication device comprises a prepaid mobile communication device, wherein the service node comprises a prepaid service node;

5 wherein the prepaid service node supports billing for the prepaid mobile communication device.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the originating mobile switching center sends to the prepaid service node one or more service identifications that are associated with one or more of the one or more other service nodes and employable by the prepaid service node to calculate billing information based on use of the one or more of the one or more other 10 service nodes by the prepaid mobile communication device.

5. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein one or more of the one or more other service nodes provide one or more of the one or more services to the prepaid mobile communication device;

15 wherein the originating mobile switching center sends to the prepaid service node one or more service identifications that are associated with the one or more of the one or more services and employable by the prepaid service node to calculate billing information based on receipt of the one or more of the one or more services by the prepaid mobile communication device.

6. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the one or more other service nodes comprise a directory assistance service node;

wherein upon receipt of the initial trigger response, the originating mobile switching center encounters a dialed digits trigger which triggers the call to the directory assistance service node to provide directory assistance service to the prepaid mobile communication device.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the originating mobile switching center creates a temporary connection between the prepaid mobile communication device and the directory assistance service node for a duration of the directory assistance service;

10 wherein the originating mobile switching center removes the directory assistance service node from a path of the call upon completion of the directory assistance service.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, in combination with the service node and the one or more other service nodes, wherein the communication device comprises a prepaid mobile communication device;

15 wherein one or more of the one or more other service nodes provide one or more of the one or more services to the prepaid mobile communication device on the call;

wherein the one or more of the one or more other service nodes send one or more service identifications to the originating mobile switching center to indicate use of the one or more of the one or more other service nodes by the prepaid mobile communication device.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the service node comprises a prepaid service node;

wherein the originating mobile switching center sends the one or more service identifications, one or more billing rates, and one or more call durations to the prepaid service node for employment by the prepaid service node to calculate an amount to deduct from an account balance associated with the prepaid mobile communication device.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the one or more services comprise one or more triggered services;

wherein the service node sends the initial trigger response to the originating mobile switching center to arm the one or more triggers at the originating mobile switching center so the originating mobile switching center is able to provide access to the one or more triggered services.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more triggers comprise one or more first switch based triggers, wherein the originating mobile switching center is provisioned with one or more second switch based triggers;

wherein the initial trigger response arms one or more subscriber based triggers at the originating mobile switching center.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more triggers comprise one or more of Calling_Routing_Addresss_Available, OAnswer, and ODisconnect triggers.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, in combination with the service node, wherein the service node comprises a first service node, wherein the one or more other service nodes comprise a second service node, wherein the first service node receives destination digits for the call;

5 wherein the first service node changes the destination digits into a digit string associated with the second service node and sends the initial trigger response to the originating mobile switching center.

14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the initial trigger response comprises a Specific_Called_Party_Digit_String Termination AnalyzedInformation operation return result message, wherein the Specific_Called_Party_Digit_String Termination AnalyzedInformation operation return result message comprises an indication to arm the one or more triggers and a termination list set to redirect the call to one or more of the one or more other service nodes.

15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the service node requests a list of the one or
15 more triggers from a home location register;

 wherein the service node sends the list of the one or more triggers in the initial trigger response to the originating mobile switching center.

16. A method, comprising the steps of:

receiving control of a call from a serving mobile switching center;

triggering the call to a service node that employs an initial trigger response to arm one or more triggers, wherein the one or more triggers comprise one or more of one or more switch based triggers and one or more subscriber based triggers exclusive of Calling_Routing_Addresss_Available, OAnswer, and ODisconnect triggers;

encountering one or more of the one or more triggers associated with one or more other service nodes; and

triggering the call to one or more of the one or more other service nodes upon receipt
10 of the initial trigger response.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the initial trigger response comprises an indication of one or more subscriber based triggers, the method further comprising the step of:

arming the one or more subscriber based triggers for one or more services indicated in
15 the initial trigger response.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the service node comprises a prepaid service node, the method further comprising the step of:

sending to the prepaid service node one or more service identifications that are associated with one or more of the one or more other service nodes and employable by the
20 prepaid service node to calculate billing information based on use of the one or more of the one or more other service nodes by a prepaid mobile communication device.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more other service nodes comprises a directory assistance service node, wherein the step of encountering the one or more of the one or more triggers associated with the one or more other service nodes comprises the step of:

5 encountering a dialed digits trigger with a destination of the directory assistance service node upon receipt of the initial trigger response;

wherein the step of triggering the call to the one or more of the one or more other service nodes upon receipt of the initial trigger response comprises the step of:

triggering the call to the directory assistance service node to provide directory
10 assistance service to the prepaid mobile communication device.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of triggering the call to the directory assistance service node to provide directory assistance service to the prepaid mobile communication device comprises the steps of:

creating a temporary connection between the prepaid mobile communication device
15 and the directory assistance service node for a duration of the directory assistance service;
and

removing the directory assistance service node from a path of the call upon completion of the directory assistance service.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of encountering the one or more of the one or more triggers associated with the one or more other service nodes comprises the step of:

receiving an Specific_Called_Party_Digit_String Termination AnalyzedInformation
5 operation return result message that comprises an indication to arm the one or more triggers and a termination list set to redirect the call to one or more of the one or more other service nodes to provide one or more services to a communication device.

22. An article, comprising:
- one or more computer-readable signal-bearing media;
- means in the one or more media for receiving control of a call from a serving mobile switching center;
- 5 means in the one or more media for triggering the call to a service node that employs an initial trigger response to arm one or more triggers, wherein the one or more triggers comprise one or more of one or more switch based triggers and one or more subscriber based triggers exclusive of Calling_Routing_Addresss_Available, OAnswer, and ODisconnect triggers;
- 10 means in the one or more media for encountering one or more of the one or more triggers associated with one or more other service nodes; and
- means in the one or more media for triggering the call to one or more of the one or more other service nodes upon receipt of the initial trigger response.

* * * *